

Dental Services

Guideline: Each person should receive complete, comprehensive dental services consistent with their abilities and needs.

The following Guideline is intended to help dentists, physicians, nurses, and others involved in clinical decision-making by describing the recommended course of action for dental services for individuals served by SCDDSN. As much as possible, the recommendations reflect the strength of evidence and magnitude of net benefit (benefits minus harms) as reported by the nationally recognized health organizations. Decisions about services required for each individual should be based on clinical history, assessment, and other factors unique to the individual.

RATIONALE:

1. Preventive dental programs should be promoted to improve and maintain the oral health of each patient.
2. Comprehensive, diagnostic, and x-ray services for each patient will be provided by qualified, licensed personnel. Dental personnel should include at least a dentist, dental hygienist, and assistant.
3. Dental professionals should serve as dental care advocates for all dental patients with developmental disabilities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Comprehensive general dentistry should be provided to all patients as appropriate. This should include but not be limited to: prophylaxis, radiographs, operative dentistry, oral surgery, periodontics, endodontics, prosthetics, emergency dental care, and prescribing of medication as indicated based on the dental procedure.
2. Annual dental examinations should be provided. Additional examinations and treatment should be provided as needed.
3. Current dental health records should be maintained for all dental patients.
4. Programs should be conducted to promote oral health in those patients with special needs and to educate direct support staff in correct oral hygiene procedures.
5. Information about the person's dental status and care should be included in the Single Plan.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. A complete extraoral and intraoral examination, using available diagnostic aids necessary to evaluate the patient's condition, should be performed no later than one month after admission to the facility. If a complete examination has been done and documented within one year prior to admission, the examination may be deferred until it is time for the next scheduled examination.
2. Examinations should be conducted annually thereafter, and more frequently as needed to meet the dental needs of the patient.
3. Comprehensive general dentistry should be provided in accordance with the laws and regulations of the South Carolina State Board of Dentistry.^{1,2} The standard of care for general dentistry is applicable and consistent with the patient's ability to tolerate the treatment.
4. The Single Plan should include a report of the patient's dental health status. Dental personnel may attend team meetings when indicated.

5. A permanent dental record for each patient should be maintained in the patient's living unit and in the dental clinic.
6. To maintain an acceptable level of oral hygiene, in-service training should be provided by the dental team as requested or on an ongoing basis.
7. Appropriate referral for specialist consultation and treatment should be made as needed.

REFERENCE

S.C. Code Ann. § 44-15-40 (2004 South Carolina Code of Regulations – Board of Dentistry Current through State Register Volume 28, Issue 9, effective September 24, 2004). Available at <http://www.scstatehouse.net/coderegs/c039.htm>